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URBAN DISTRICT OF HOYLAKE.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.,

FOR THE YEAR

1940.

HOYLAKE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1940.

In war time there are objections to the publication of Annual Reports of the usual size but the health of the Districts' Residents is as important as ever and this report has been prepared in the form of a summary of the essential details so that full continuity of statistical records can be resumed when Peace returns.

The War has created many new problems, and changes and depletion of staffs resulting from the calls of the Armed Services have added to the difficulties of Local Authorities. The re-distribution of population which preceded and followed the air attacks of 1940 has had far reaching effects and the organisation of the Emergency and the Civil Defence Services has brought with it many additional responsibilities.

With the beginning of air raids the War Emergency Services have been tried and despite many unforseen circumstances they have acquitted themselves remarkably well. The voluntary organisations, the British Red Cross Society and the St. John's Ambulance Association the Women's Voluntary Services and many others have all given invaluable help in the staffing and organisation of the various branches of Civil Defence which are the responsibility of the Public Health Department and great credit is due to the members of these bodies for the splendid effort which has been made.

Shelter life has not affected this District to any material extent and although its influence on the public health was watched with some anxiety throughout the country generally, events have shewn that many of our misgivings were groundless.

Vital statistics for 1940 compare favourably with those of the preceding year. The death rate has declined and a low infantile mortality rate has been maintained, whilst a sharp fall in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever has been recorded. Measles and Whooping cough are now notifiable and the former disease has been rather prevalent. There has been a slight increase in the incidence of Diphtheria and it is rather disturbing to note that 90 % of the total cases reported this year occurred in one residential institution. The Council's Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation became operative in April and the report includes details of the children who have been treated at the Council's clinics.

I wish to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their support and to the Council's Officers for their valued co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HATTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)..... 5,933

Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1940)..... 26,290

Number of inhabited houses..... 7,631

Rateable value..... £268,894

Sum represented by a penny rate..... £1,046

The area is residential and agricultural.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1940.

		Total	Males	Females.	
Live Births	Legitimate	309	147	162	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population. 12.21
	Illegitimate	12	9	3	
Stillbirths		9	4	5	

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births..... 27.27

Birth Rate for England and Wales..... 14.6

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	336	156	180

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 12.78

Death Rate for England and Wales..... 14.3

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis	1	3.00
Other maternal causes.....	1	3.00
Total.....	2	6.00

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births..... 24.69

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... 19.23

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 166.6

Infant mortality rate for England and Wales..... 55

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... 54

" " Measles (all ages)..... Nil

" " Whooping cough (all ages)..... Nil

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..... 1

Deaths at various ages during 1940:-

AGE	NUMBER OF DEATHS.
Under 1 year.....	8
1 year and under 2.....	2
2 years and under 5.....	4
5 " " " 15.....	7
15 " " " 25.....	5
25 " " " 35.....	14
35 " " " 45.....	16
45 " " " 55.....	30
55 " " " 65.....	63
65 " " " 75.....	78
75 " upwards.....	109
Total.....	336

Infantile Deaths

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shewn below.

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	4 wks. & under 3 months.	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total Deaths Under 1 year.
Premature birth, congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases.	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6
Other Causes.....	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Total.....	5	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	8

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death.	Males	Females	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	-	-	-
2. Cerebro spinal fever.....	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	1	1
4. Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria.....	-	2	2
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	7	5	12
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	1	-	1
8. Syphilitic diseases.....	-	-	-
9. Influenza.....	7	7	14
10. Measles.....	-	-	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis.....	-	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis...	-	1	1
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus(M.) uterus (F).....	2	1	3
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum..	8	5	13
15. Cancer of breast.....	-	9	9
16. Cancer of all other sites.....	16	13	29
17. Diabetes.....	1	3	4
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions..	16	17	33
19. Heart disease.....	33	60	93
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.....	4	9	13
21. Bronchitis.....	2	5	7
22. Pneumonia.....	16	1	17
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	2	1	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum....	2	-	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	-	1	1
26. Appendicitis.....	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases.....	4	7	11
28. Nephritis.....	7	4	11
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis.....	-	1	1
30. Other maternal causes.....	-	1	1
31. Premature birth.....	-	1	1
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases.	3	2	5
33. Suicide.....	2	6	8
34. Road traffic accidents.....	4	-	4
35. Other violent causes.....	9	3	12
36. All other causes.....	10	14	24.
TOTALS	156	180	336

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health
JOHN HATTON M.D., D.P.H.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector
JOSEPH McKEOWN.M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector
C.H. CONWAY.M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Clerk MISS P. STOCKTON

Clerk F.K. HARROP.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Neston and Wirral.

Laboratory Facilities.

Ambulance Facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

There has been no change in these services during the year.

Legislation in Force

No new Acts or bye-laws were adopted during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER.

The District receives its supply partly from the Council's own Waterworks and partly from the West Cheshire Water Board's Works. In both cases the supplies are controlled by quarterly chemical and bacteriological examinations, and those examined during the year have all been highly satisfactory. Despite the continued satisfactory standard of the water supply the question of the provision of a chlorination plant as an additional safeguard under present day conditions was considered in June when it was decided that such a plant be installed and the water chlorinated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The extension of the sewer from Frankby to Irby Mill Hill was continued. Three cesspools were abolished and the drainage systems connected to the sewer.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of streams by sewage from one farm and one dwellinghouse was abated by improvement of the sewage disposal arrangements.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

67 dwellings in the outlying areas are provided with closets other than water closets. 28 are temporary structures.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Pagefield system of collection is in use. Disposal takes place at the Salvage Plant by sorting, salvage and incineration. Disposal of refuse from the outlying areas is by controlled tipping.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1940.

INSPECTIONS MADE.		NOTICES SERVED		RESULT OF SERVICE OF NOTICES	
NATURE	NUMBER.	INFORMAL.	STATUTORY.	COMPLIED WITH.	REMAINING IN HAND.
Dwellinghouses	429	295	-	125	17
Re-visits.	556	60	63	121	2
Housing Inspections.	56	19	-	19	-
Re-inspections	82	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	29	12	-	8	4
Camping.	41	3	-	3	-
Privies, Earthclosets.	17	2	-	2	-
Cesspools.	36	12	2	14	-
Drainage.	194	61	-	-	-
Ditches, Watercourses.	32	4	2	6	-
Keeping of Animals.	49	16	2	18	-
Offensive Trades	16	2	-	2	-
Slaughterhouses.	34	4	-	4	-
Butcher's Shops.	71	7	-	7	-
Food Premises	68	19	-	19	-
Ice Cream	51	7	-	7	-
Bakehouses.	59	16	-	16	-
Shops Act	28	2	-	2	-
Dairies.	91	11	-	11	-
Cowsheds	94	8	-	8	-
Offices.	4	-	-	-	-
Factories	53	8	-	8	-
Schools.	48	5	-	5	-
Public Conveniences.	19	1	-	1	-
Licenced Premises.	17	2	-	1	1
Places of Entertainment.	3	2	-	2	-
Smoke Observations.	12	2	-	2	-
Rat Infestations	61	25	-	23	2
Verminous Premises	29	20	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations.	43	24	2	26	-
Infectious Disease	135	-	-	-	-
Disinfection	71	-	-	-	-
Evacuation.	137	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria Immunisation.	98	-	-	-	-
A.R.P.	67	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	210	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3,040	649	71	460	26

FACTORIES

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Number of written notices.	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power.	73	13	-
Factories without mechanical power.	25	8	-
Other premises (other than outworkers premises).	14	3	-
	112	24	-

Defects Found

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Ref. to HM. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	12	12	-	-
Overcrowding. (S.2.)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation. (S.4.)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences. Insufficient	2	2	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences. Unsuitable or defective.	5	5	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences. Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-
Other offences. (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences mentioned in the Schedule of the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the third schedule of the Factories Act, 1937.	7	7	-	-
TOTAL.	26	26	-	-

CAMPING

Control is exercised over the use of land for camping purposes under the provisions of Section 23 of the Hoylake Urban District Council Act, 1935, and bye-laws made thereunder. The consent of the Council was given to the use of one plot of land as a camping ground for a period of twelve months. Visits have been made to the Commons, foreshore and other plots of unfenced land which are occasionally used for camping purposes. The removal of unauthorised campers was secured without difficulty.

SCHOOLS.

Systematic visits are made to ensure that the sanitary condition of schools is satisfactory. The sanitary conveniences at Frankby Schools were completely renewed during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Twelve smoke observations were made. In two cases excessive emission of smoke occurred. Nuisance was abated as a result of informal action.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are two open air Public Baths in the district - Hoylake Baths and West Kirby Marine lake. A filtration and chlorinator plant is instaled at the former.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) The number of:-

(a) Council Houses

(i) Infested	...	Nil
(ii) Disinfested	...	Nil

(b) Other houses -

(i) Infested	...	20
(ii) Disinfested	...	20

(2) The methods employed for freeing infested houses.
Houses treated with proprietary liquid insecticides after removal of skirtings, picture rails etc, from walls. Bedding and fabrics steam disinfested.

(3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses.
Fumigation with Hydrocyanic Acid Gas.

(4) Whether the work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority or by a Contractor:-
H.C.N. fumigation by contractors.
Other forms of treatment by the Local Authority.

(5) The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation after cleansing:-
Tenants are instructed to report reinfestation immediately, to colour rather than paper walls, not to purchase furnishings from doubtful sources. Inspections are made of Council houses when they are vacated and the homes of prospective tenants visited.

HOUSING

56 houses were inspected under the Housing Act 1936. Defects in 19 were repaired as a result of informal action. Recourse was had mainly to the powers under the Public Health Act for the remedying of defects at dwellinghouses.

One official representation under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1930 was made and an undertaking was accepted by the Council.

One Closing Order in respect of part of a building previously occupied separately as a dwellinghouse was determined by the Council Licences for the occupation of two dwellinghouses, the subjects of demolition orders were granted in two cases as a war time expedient, under the provisions of Article 68 of the Defence Regulations.

MILK SUPPLY

Two additional producers premises were registered bringing the total to 32. 22 producers are wholesale purveyors and 10 retail purveyors. There were three changes of tenancy of farms during the year. With five exceptions milk from local farms is retailed in the district. In addition supplies are sent in from 28 external farms and four pasteurising establishments. 13 of the local farmers hold producers licences for Accredited Milk. Tuberculin Tested milk is produced at one farm.

59 samples were submitted for biological examination. 4 were returned positive for tubercle bacilli and the diseased animals were traced and slaughtered.

There are 25 dairymen and retail purveyors of milk on the register. Designated milk licences were issued to them as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested Bottling licences.
Tuberculin Tested Dealers Licences.
Accredited Dealers Licences.
Supplementary pasteurised licence.

MEAT INSPECTION

The centralisation of slaughtering consequent upon the inauguration of meat rationing resulted in the local private slaughterhouses becoming redundant. Licences in respect of these slaughterhouses were issued for a period of twelve months, the question of modernisation to be raised on the decentralisation of slaughtering.

Home killed meat sold in this district is now derived from abbattoirs at Bebington and Birkenhead which are operated by the Ministry of Food. Inspection of meat is carried out by the respective local authorities Inspectors. The carcases and organs of 9 beasts, 21 calves, 102 sheep and 71 pigs slaughtered at local slaughterhouses prior to the inauguration of the new arrangement have been examined. 78 lbs of meat were condemned.

352 lbs of meat were surrendered from butcher's shops by reason of bone taint or decomposition.

71 lbs of bacon were surrendered by reason of decomposition.

At the inception of rationing the method of distribution of meat from abbattoir to retailer was unsatisfactory as a result of the change over from the normal peacetime methods. The attention of the Area Meat Agent was drawn to the matter and requisite improvement effected.

ICE CREAM

Inspections for the re-registation of ice cream dealers and their premises consequent upon the operation of the Hoylake(Food) Order 1940 were carried out. 16 manufacturers and their premises were registered together with 23 dealers and their premises.

BAKEHOUSES.

59 visits were paid to the 28 bakehouses on the list. 16 notices were served, all of which were complied with.

FISH FRIERS.

The premises of 9 fish friers are registered. Routine visits are made to secure compliance with the bye-laws.Consent was refused to the establishment of one business by reason of unsuitability of premises.

FOOD PREMISES

68 visits were paid and 29 notices served. All were complied with.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS - ADULTERATION.

Administration of Sections of Food and Drugs Act, 1936 relavent to adulteration, etc, is carried out by Cheshire County Council.

EVACUATION.

Applications or compensation in respect of damage to bedding and furniture by evacuees, were investigated by this Department. Payment was made in 15 cases on claims for damage to bedding and in 28 cases for damage to furniture and fittings.

Evacuees were re-billeted in four cases on representations made by this Department where conditions at the Billet were found to be unsatisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

418 cases of infectious disease other than Tuberculosis were notified during 1940. Details of these are given in the table on the following page.

No cases of Dysentery occurred in the Urban District but 6 cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis and 6 cases of Meningococcal meningitis were reported all of which recovered.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was considerably lower during the year and there was a total of 32 cases compared with 112 cases in 1939. There was however a slight increase in the notifications of Diphtheria and 78 cases were recorded. Of these 69 occurred in a residential institution and after consultation with the Responsible Authority recommendations have been made with the object of controlling future infection.

Three cases of Malaria were notified but in each instance the disease was contracted outside this country. Three sporadic cases of Enteric Fever were also reported and these patients recovered.

One case of Puerpural pyrexia and one case of acute encephalitis lethargica was notified and both terminated fatally.

Measles and Whooping Cough are now notifiable diseases and Measles was prevalent during the course of the whole year.

43 cases of Pneumonia were notified resulting in 17 deaths and 6 cases of Erysipelas were reported all of which recovered.

The Councils Scheme for free Diphtheria Immunisation was introduced in April and details of the children treated at the Council's Clinics are given below. The scheme is intended to apply to children of all ages and clinics have been arranged at suitable centres for those desiring protection. The treatment used was that which is generally recommended namely 2 doses of alum toxoid with an interval of one month between them. The schick test has not been used.

No. of Diphtheria Immunisation clinics held.	No. of children who completed full course of immunisation between 1.1.40 and 31.12.40.		
	Girls	Boys	Total.
42	443	454	897

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1940.

Notifiable Disease	Total	Number of Cases Notified — At ages - Years. Under 1 year	1-2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 4 years	4 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 - 15 years	15 - 20 years	20 - 35 years	35 - 45 years	45 - 65 years	65 years & over.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	32	-	-	-	3	3	20	2	2	2	-	-	-	25	1
Diphtheria	78	1	-	1	9	4	41	14	5	2	1	-	-	78	2
Enteric fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	43	1	2	-	-	-	6	-	2	4	8	12	8	2	17
Cerebro-spinal fever	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	1	-	2	-
Acute encephalitis lethargica	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	-	-
Malaria	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	6	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Measles	226	2	12	11	22	23	125	16	7	7	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping cough	13	-	1	1	3	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	418	4	15	13	38	31	200	36	18	21	15	17	10	111	22

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken during 1940 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.	M	F
0 to 1 year	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 " 15 "	1	-	4	1	-	-	1	-
15 " 25 "	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 " 35 "	2	4	-	1	3	2	-	-
35 " 45 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 " 55 "	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 " 65 "	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
65 years and upwards.	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-
TOTALS.	10	10	4	3	7	5	1	-